England's Interest:

OR, A

BRIEF DISCOURSE

OF THE

Royal Fishery.

IN

A Letter to a Friend.

LONDON:

Printed for *J. Southby*, at the *Harrow* in *Cornhill.* 1696.

Price Four-pence.

emp. 407. m. 35.

England's Intereſt:

OR, A

BRIEF DISCOURSE

OF THE

Royal Fiſhery.

IN

A Letter to a Friend.

LONDON:

Printed for *J. Southby*, at the *Harrow* in *Cornhill*. 1696.

Price Four-pence.

ENGLAND's Intereſt:

OR, A

BRIEF DISCOURSE

OF

The Royal Fiſhery, &c.

SIR,

I Was honour'd with *Yours*; in Anſwer:

The *Coaſts* of Great Britain do yield a *Continual* Sea-harveſt of *Gain* and *Benefit*, to *ſuch* as *Diligently* apply *themſelves* to the *Fiſhing Trade.*

The *Summer*-fiſhing for HERRINGS *beginneth* about *Midſummer*, and *laſteth* ſome part of *Auguſt.* The *Winter*-fiſhing for HERRINGS *laſteth* from *September* to the middle of *November:* Both which extend in place from *Boughones* in *Scotland* to the *Thames* Mouth.

The Fishing for COD, at *Alamby*, *Whirlington*, and *Whitehaven*, near the *Coast* of *Lancashire*, from *Easter* until *Whitsuntide*.

The Fishing for HAKE, at *Aberdine*, *Fiscard*, and other *places* between *Wales* and *Ireland*, from *Whitsuntide* to St. *James-tide*.

The Fishing for COD and LING, about *Padstow*, within the *Land*, and of *Severn*, from *Christmas* to *Mid-lent*.

The Fishing of COD on the *West* part of *Ireland*, (frequented by *those* of *Biscay*, *Galicia*, and *Portugal*) from the *beginning* of *April* until the *end* of *June*.

The Fishing for COD and LING on the *North* and *North-east* of *Ireland*, from *Christmas* until *Michaelmas*.

The Fishing for PILCHERS on the *West* Coast of *England*, from St. *James-tide* until *Michaelmas*.

The Fishing for COD and LING upon the *North-east* of *England*, from *Easter* until *Midsummer*.

The Fishing of GREAT STAPLE-LING, and many *other* sorts of FISH lying *about* the *Islands* of *Scotland*, and in the *several* parts of the *British* Seas, all the *Year* long.

Out

Out of *these* infinite *Swarms* and *Shoals* of **Fish** in *His Majesty*'s Seas, the *Herring*, *Cod*, and *Ling*, taken by the *Dutch*, and other *Strangers*, were by the *most* experienc'd Authors (*even when they had not half their present number of Busses*) valued, *communibus annis*, at no less than *Ten Millions* of Pounds *Sterling*: And in *anno* 1669, by the *Account* Taken in *Holland*, it appear'd, That (*besides their Inland Fishing*) *Four hundred* and *Fifty thousand* of the *Dutch* were then maintain'd by *Fishing* at *Sea*, and the *Traffick* that *depends* thereon.

Now, if so many *People* in *Holland* (*which is but One hundred and Eighty miles in circuit*) subsist by *Fishing* on our *Coast*, how *vast* a *Trade* and *Commerce* would a **full Fishery** in *England* beget!

The HERRINGS *usually* taken by *Five hundred* Busses will *yearly* afford *His Majesty* for *Custom* outward, and on *Commodities* return'd for *them*, about *Sixty thousand* Pound: And the *Produce* of such *Herrings* (*taken without the Expence of any Foreign Commodities*) being *added* to that of the *usual* exported *Products* and *Manufactures* of these *Kingdoms*, will *Yearly*

much

much exceed the *Amount* of *all* our Annual *neceſſary* Imports, and cauſe *ſuch* an *overballance* of *Trade*, as will *turn* the *Scale* in *our* Favour, *ſtop* the *Export* of our *Moneys*, and *oblige* our *foreign* Chapmen to ſend *us* BULLION, to make good the *Difference*.

The Want of **Seamen** enough (*in time of War*) at once to *Man* our *Navy*, and *Navigate* our *Merchantmen* and *Colliers*, is detrimental to *England*, more than the *Charge* of the *War*. Now, the *Men of War* and *Merchantmen* require *many* Seamen, and breed *few*. The *Collier* indeed *brings up* ſeveral *Apprentices*, but generally *ſpends* near as many as he *makes*. The great *Nurſery* of **Seamen** is the **Fiſhery**, where *each* Buſs brings up (*it may be*) *ſix*, *eight*, or *ten* NEW MEN every *Year*. Nor is their *Value* inferiour to their *Numbers*; many *brave* Officers have been *train'd up* in that *School*; and the *Fiſhermens* Buſineſs *lying* where our *Danger* lies, makes *them* know *how* the *Sands* ſhift, and *where* the *Rocks* and *Shelves* are, and conſequently, moſt *Able* Coaſters and *Admirable* Pilots.

King

King *CHARLES* the *Second* well knowing *theſe* and many *other Advantages* would *Accrew* to the *Nation* from a *Well-govern'd* **Fiſhery**, and that a **Joint Stock** and **Company** was *abſolutely* neceſſary and requiſite to carry on the ſame, was pleaſed, by his *Letters Patents* under the *Great Seal* of *England*, bearing *date* the 25th *Day* of *September*, in the 29th Year of his *Reign*, to conſtitute *ſeveral* Perſons of *Honour*, and *others* therein nam'd, and *ſuch others* as thereafter from *time* to *time* ſhould be *admitted* into their **Company** and **Society**, to be *Traders* and *Adventurers* with them; to be *one* BODY-POLITICK and CORPORATE, in *Deed* and in *Name*, by the *Name* of, **The Company of the Royal Fiſhery of England**; to have *perpetual Succeſſion*; thereby alſo *giving* and *granting* unto the ſaid **Company**, and their **Succeſſors**, divers Beneficial *Clauſes*, *Powers*, *Privileges*, and *Immunities*, in order to the better *Government* of the ſaid **Company**, and *Management* of their *Affairs*; as *by* the ſaid *Charter* appears.

Where-

Whereupon about *Ten thousand* pounds being *subscrib'd*, the **Company** fell to work, and in a *Three Weeks* Voyage *One* of their *Doggers* brought *them* in *Thirty thousand* COD; and their *small Craft* took in proportion. But the *Dutch* and *Spaniards* being engag'd in a *War* with *France*, the *French* seiz'd the *Vessels* and *Goods* of the **Company**, as *Dutch*, (*being some, or most of them*, Dutch *built and mann'd*) which *Loss*, by reason the **Company's Stock** was far *too small*, for *so great* an Undertaking, put a *stop* for *some* time to *their* further Proceedings: In which Misfortune the *Truth* of that **Maxim** in *Trade* and *Manufactory* was evident, That *where there are but few employ'd, they will be found too many: And where there are numbers, they may be thought too few.*

But *Merchants* must not give over *all* Trade, because *some* Ships have been *lost*. The **Company** having *throughly* weigh'd and consider'd all *former* Inconveniencies, and *how* to *avoid* them, will *now* set to work again with a **Sufficient Stock**; and in order thereunto, have caus'd as well the said *Letters Patents* for their Incorporation, as the *Constitution, Laws, Articles,*

Terms

Terms or *Conditions* of *Subſcription*, and bringing in Perſons into the ſaid Company, to be Members of, or Traders or Adventurers with them *therein*, to be fairly engroſſed and made *publick* in Books *now Open'd* for receiving *Subſcriptions* for *Three hundred Thouſand* pounds, being the Sum by them *propos'd* for their *preſent Stock*; or, at leaſt, *One hundred and Fifty thouſand* pounds for them to *begin* withal; which *Subſcriptions* are made *payable* by *Equal* Portions, at *Ten* Quarterly *Payments*, but an *Allowance* of 3 *per Cent.* will be made unto the *Subſcribers* of the ſaid firſt *Hundred and Fifty thouſand* pounds, to be *allow'd* by like *equal Portions* out of their *three* firſt *Quarterly Payments*, and not any *part* thereof to be *paid* till *thirty days* after *publication* of the compleating the ſaid *Subſcription* for the ſaid *firſt Hundred* and *Fifty thouſand* pounds; of which *they* have given *publick* Notice in *Print*, to the end *ſuch* perſons in *England*, *Scotland*, or *Ireland* might not be *excluded* the *Benefit* of the ſaid 3 *per Cent.* as ſhould be *diſpos'd*, by their *early* ſubſcribing, to *entitle* themſelves to the ſame.

And for *better* keeping the **Capital Stock** entire, *one Tenth* of the *Clear* Profits *only* is ſet apart for *paying* Sallaries, *&c.* to the *Managing* **Members, Officers** and **Servants**, and the *Diſtributions* and *Proportions* of each *thereby* ſetled: And in caſe of *Loſs* in any *One Year*, the **Stock** is to be *made good* out of the *next*; ſo that the *Salleries* of all **Officers** will entirely *depend* upon their *good* Conduct and *frugal* Management of *Affairs*.

Now divers *Perſons* of *Quality*, and *Merchants*, and *others*, towards the *effectual* carrying on this *Good Work*, have *already* ſubſcrib'd above *One hundred Thouſand* pounds.

And, for *your* encouragement by *ſubſcribing* alſo to *promote* the ſame, I ſhall here inſert the *Words* I find in *Lex Mercatoria*, fol. 112, written by that *famous Merchant* and *Lover* of his Country *Gerard Malynes*, who recites *them* out of a *Treatiſe* entituled, England's *Way to win Wealth, and to employ Ships and Mariners*. Written by *Tobias Gentleman*, an *eminent* Fiſherman.

"Now

"Now, to shew you truly (*saith he*) "what the *Charge* of a *Buss* will be, with "all *her* Furniture, as *Masts*, *Sails*, *An-* "*chors*, *Cables*, and with all her **Fishery-** "*Implements* and *Appurtenances*, at the "first provided all new, she being "between *Thirty* and *Forty Last*, will "cost *Five hundred* pounds, and may "continue *twenty* years, with small Re- "parations: But the *Yearly* Slite and "Wear of her *Tackle* and *War-Ropes*, "with her *Nets*, will cost *Eighty* pounds.

"And the *whole Charge* for the keep- "ing her at *Sea* for the *whole Summer*, "or *three* Voyages, for the filling of an "*Hundred Last* of *Cask* or *Barrels*, *viz.*

		l.	
100 *Last of Barrels* — —		72	
Salt — — —	for 4 mon.	18	*A hundred Last of Barrels fill'd, and sold for* Ten *Pounds per Last, is* — 1000 *l.*
Beer — — —		42	
Bread — — —		21	
Bacon, & *Butter* — —		18	*Charges deducted* — — 335 *l.*
Pease, & *Billets*,		6	*Gotten* — — 665 *l.*
Mens Wages		88	
		335 *l.*	

"Here

"Here (*ſaith he*) plainly appeareth, "that is gotten *Six hundred Sixty five* "pounds in *one* Summer, whereof if that "you deduct *One hundred* pound for the "*wearing* of *Ship*, and the *Reparation* of "her *Nets* againſt the *next* Summer, yet "*ſtill* there is *Five hundred Sixty five* "pounds remaining for *one* Year, rating "the HERRINGS ſold but at *Ten* pounds "*per* Laſt; which are commonly *ſold* by "the *Hollanders* at *Dantzig* for *Fifteen* "and *Twenty* pounds.

And ſoon after, *he* proves BARREL-FISH no leſs *advantageous* to the Takers.

As to your *Suggeſtion*, That the *Dutch Build* cheaper, can *Sail* with *fewer* Hands, afford *cheaper* Freight, and *Underſell* us.

Allowing it true, That *now* the *Dutch* build cheaper, tho' it is certain *Engliſh*-built *Ships* are *much* ſtronger, and *abler* to *brook* the *Seas*, and will *laſt twice* as long; for which Reaſon, in above *three* parts of the *World*, they are *more* in *requeſt*, and yield *better* Freight; pray what ſhould *hinder* the Company (*even tho' we had*

not

not ſuch Vaſt Quantities of Naval Stores in New-England) from *Selling* as *Cheap* as the *Dutch*.

For **Timber** of their *own* growth, the *Dutch* have none, but are forc'd to *fetch* it from *Germany*; whereas *we* have *Timber* ſufficient, and at *Reaſonable Rates*, growing in *England*; and in *many* places of *Ireland* much ſtately *Timber* lies *waſting* and *decaying*, for want of *Mony* to make the *Ways* paſſible to ſome *Rivers*: Which done, *we* can have it *two thirds* cheaper than the *Dutch*.

For *Inſtance*, the *great Wood* in the County of *Wexford*, near the *Slane*, wherein is *Timber* enough to *build* ſeveral *thouſands* of *Herring-Buſſes*. Now, *Two* or *Three thouſand* Pounds would not only make a *Way* to the ſaid *River*, but ſo effectually *clear* it, as to render *prodigious quantities* of *Timber* profitable both to the *Proprietors* and the *Publick*, which at preſent is of *little* Advantage to either.

Iron *Holland* produceth not, their *Bolt-Rods* are drawn out in *Germany*; whence they *fetch* them: Whereas with the *Offal* of the *Timber* uſed in *building Buſſes*, and

Fo-

Forest of *Dean Cinders* and *Iron Stone*, (*which Metal makes most excellent Iron*) *sufficient* quantities may be made in *Bar* at *Nine*, and *drawn out* for *Bolts* at *Eleven* Pounds *per* Tun; which is not *Two thirds* what the *Dutch* pay for *theirs*.

Nor *need* the **Company** to divert *any part* of their *Stock* from the **Fishery**, or to be at *expence* in *cleansing Rivers* to come at *Timber*; or for setting up *Iron-works*, *&c.* *No*, the *Proprietors* of the *Lands* that *produce* such *Materials*, by the **Companys** *great* Demands, being assur'd of a *certain* Market, will from *thence* receive *sufficient* Encouragement, to *improve* their *Estates*, by such Undertakings.

Hemp the *Dutch* have from the *East Countries*; but now *we* have found out the *right* way of *Retting* the *Hemp* our *own* produceth, it appears in goodness *Second* to none. Nor can *sufficient* quantities be *wanting* in this *Nation*, since by *Experience* it is *found*, that such *Marsh*-Land as formerly would not yield *forty* Shillings an *Acre*, by being *now* laid under *Hemp*, is *Improv'd* to *five* pounds: and the *Methods* are *known* that will render the **Com-**

panys

pany's *Cables*, *Cordage*, and *Twine* near a *fourth part* cheaper than the *Dutch* can afford them.

Canvas is made at *Fulham*, *Lambeth*, &c. as good cheap as in *Holland*.

Maſts, **Tar**, and **Deals** the *Dutch* have from *Norway*, where (*if we ſend Sea-made* HERRINGS) they will ſtand the **Company** in no more than they do *them*: allowing that *Dutch*-built *Ships* are by *Five Shillings* a *Tun* more advantageous for fetching *Lumber* from thence than ours *now* in *faſhion*: yet ſurely the *Danes* and *Swedes* are *able* to bring *their own* Commodities as *cheap* as the *Dutch*.

Pitch we *now* make in great quantities, of *Stones* found in our *Coal-mines*, ſold at *Ten* pounds *per* Tun, juſtly ſaid to be the *brighteſt*, *hardeſt*, and *beſt* in the *World*.

In **Building**, for *Strength*, *Stowage*, and *Sailing*, Engliſh *Shipwrights* know no *Maſter*.

Now, as to the *Dutch* Sailing *cheaper*, becauſe with *leſs* Hands, (*none envies them that Happineſs*) they *loſe* more (*in proportion*) at *Sea* than *we* do, occaſion'd by their *Undermanning* their *Ships*; or elſe

else what should hinder the Company from having *their Ships* and *Vessels built* and *rigged*, after the *Flemish* Fashion, and then *they* may be *Sail'd* with as *few* Men as the *Dutch*. Yet the *Objection* holds *only* in *Merchants Ships*, to *carry* their **Fish** to *Market*; their *Busses* and *Fisher-boats* carry *more* Men to *catch* **Fish** than are *needful* to *sail* their *Vessels*: And in the *Greenland fishing* each *Ship* must have *five* times the *Crew* that are *requisite* to *Navigate* her, for to *Man* their *Shallops* when a *fishing*. So that *their* Sailing *cheaper* than *us*, is either of *no force* against the **Fishery**, or it is also *of force* against our *Merchantmen* and *Colliers*; and to *discourage* our *Fishing* upon *this* Consideration, is all one as to bid *us quit* all *Navigation* whatsoever, and *leave our* selves at the *Mercy* of all *Comers*.

Provisions *we* have of our **own** *growth*; *Meat* and *Drink* in *Ireland*, and in *many* parts of *England*, are as *cheap* again as in *Holland*, which *produceth* no other than *Butter* and *Cheese*; and *those* too are *cheaper* with *us* than with *them*: And *'tis observ'd*, that *what* the *Dutch* Fishermen

men *ſave* by *Eating* of *Grout*, they *Drink* (*more than ours*) in *Brandy*.

Salt the *Dutch* are oblig'd to fetch from *France* and *Portugal*, *Holland* yielding them *none* for their *Fiſhery*: But in *England* enough to *ſupply* all *Europe* can be made (and is now offer'd *(to the* **Company**, *for their* Fiſhery) **at** *Twelve-pence* per *Buſhel*, deliver'd on board): And this *our Salt* is of ſo *noble* a *quality*, that it will remove all thoſe *Miſchiefs* which at preſent (*in the Fiſhery*) have relation to *Salt*, and ſeems in a *mighty* meaſure to *promiſe* us the **Fiſhing** *Trade*.

The *Tide* of *Flood* from *Cape Clear* round *Ireland* to the *Weſtward*, and then *thro'* St. *George's Channel*, and ſo about *Scotland* one way, and *up* the *Channel* the other, *both* meeting at the *Longsand-head*, joyntly *run* up the *River* of *Thames*.

We have *many* Convenient *Tide-Haven-Ports*, as at *Hull* and *Harwich*, to the *Northward*, and *Dover*, *Rye*, *Portſmouth*, *Southampton*, *Cowes*, *Weymouth*, *Dartmouth*, *Catt-water*, *Hamos*, *Fowey*, *Falmouth*, *Hilford*, *Scilly*, and *Milford*, *Weſtward*; where at *low*-water all of *them* are either a *ſmall*

Chingle or *hard Sand*; ſo that *our Ships* and *Veſſels* may eaſily haul *aſhore*, and *Waſh* and *Tallow* at *pleaſure*.

Creeks and *commodious places* are not wanting to lodge *our* Buſſes *ſafe* when not *employ'd*, ſo as to prevent *Wear* of *Cables*, *Charge* of *Watching*, *Danger* of *Fire*, *&c.* and *ſeveral* of the ſaid *Subſcribers* having been concern'd in the *Dutch Fiſhery*, will be able to manage *ours* with all poſſible *Foreſight*, *Frugality*, and *Good Husbandry*, and *frame* ſuch a *Body* of Inſtructions, as may be *ſufficient* to give *Light* to each other *Particular*, that may *rationally* be *ſuppos'd* to be of *moment* for the *Safety* and *better managing* the **Fiſhing Trade.**

Beſides, the *Dutch* have above *a Hundred* Leagues to *ſail* before they *come* to their *Fiſhery*, and *there* they *lye* at the *Mercy* of the *Winds*, for want of a *Port* to *Friend*; and in caſe of *unloading*, they have as *far* back again; which *takes* up a *great* deal of *Time*, hinders their *Buſineſs*, and endangers the *loſs* of their *Markets*. It is true, *they* have their *Yagers* or *Dogger-Boats*, many times to take off their *Fiſh* at *Sea*, and refurniſh them with *Cask*,

Cask, and *other* Neceſſaries: But if it happens to be a *rowling Sea*, *they* muſt *lye ſtill*, and wait for a *Calm*. Whereas *we* have this ſo *Valuable* a *Treaſure* at our *Feet*, the Fiſh upon *our* own *Coaſts*, ſo near our *Shoars*, that in Caſe of *Storm*, *unloading*, taking in of *Proviſions*, or the like, it is *ſeldom* above *four* or *five* hours Work (*and moſt commonly not ſo much*) to recover a *Harbour*, and, without *loſs* of *Time*, to put to *Sea* again; the Work of *Unloading*, *Repacking*, and *ſending* our Fiſh *away* to the next *Market*, ſtill going on, in all *Weathers*; and from *ſome* parts of His *Majeſty's Dominions*, before the *Dutch* can arrive in *Holland*, we may be at our *Markets* in *France*, *Spain*, or *Italy*, and ſo anticipate our Neighbours.

Heretofore the Hamburgers uſed alſo to Fiſh for HERRINGS with Buſſes; but being yearly *frozen* up *one* month longer than the *Dutch*, by that *one twelfth* Diſadvantage were *beaten* out of the *Trade*. Now, the *Shoars* of *England* are *bold*; the Coaſts *High Land*, and *eaſily* diſcover'd; *ſeveral* of our *Cape-Lands* (*oppoſite to* France *and* Holland) make

Eaſy Bays, whoſe *depth* of *Water* is mean, as 6, 8, 10, or 12 *fathom*; the *Tydes* (*on our Coaſt*) are *ſmall* and *Anchor hold*, generally *ſtiff Clay*, *Chalk*, or *hard Gravel*; ſo that *we* need not dread *Winter Storms*; beſides the *Advantage* of *lying* in a *moderate Climate*, and in the very *Center* of the *Trade* of *Europe*, affords us *Opportunity* of ſending to *foreign* parts from *divers* of our *Ports* at *all* Seaſons of the *Year*. But the *Coaſt* of *Holland* lies extream low, (*and conſequently is moſt ſubject to be hazey and foggy*) hath many *Shoals* and *Sands*, ſome of which lay ſo far *off* at *Sea*, that *many* times *Ships* are *ſtranded* before they *ſee* Land. *Their Ports* likewiſe are *oft* choaked up with *Quick-ſands*, which makes it *dangerous* for all *great Ships* to *approach* them. *Their Havens* alſo are commonly *frozen up* ſome *months* together, and a *North-weſt* Wind (*generally blowing the greateſt part of the Year*) makes *Holland* a *Lee*, and *England* a *Weather*-Shore: So that *many times*, whilſt *they* lye *Wind-bound*, or *frozen up* at home, *we* can ſupply the *Markets* abroad.

The

"The *Dutch*, you note, are already *ſetled* in "the **Fiſhery**. I *anſwer*; Not *many Years* ſince, *we* imported *Silk-Stockings* from the *Levant*; yet *now* the Stream is turn'd, and *we* ſend *them* thither.

You alſo *alledge*, "That *other* Nations "(particularly the *Dutch*) are more *painful*, "*hardy*, and *better able* to **Fiſh** than the *En-* "*gliſh*. At which I much wonder, ſeeing *Our* Men do *daily* run *greater* Hazards, and ſuffer *greater* Hardſhips in *other* Voyages, than in **Fiſhing**: And for *Hard Labour*, certainly the *working* of a *Mine* is incomparably *beyond* that of a *Buſs*. And as to the *Genius* of *our* People, it is remarkable, that *ſuch* Boys and *Country* Fellows as at *Yarmouth*, *Scarborough*, &c. are *once* hired into the **Fiſhing**, and come to *feed* on the **Fiſh** they catch, which for *Variety* and *Delicacy* (*being freſh taken*) is a *Treat* beyond what is to be *had* on *Shore*: It *improves* them at ſuch a *rate*, that of *pitiful* Weaklings at *Land*, they come to be *hearty*, *ſtout*, and *healthful* perſons; and upon tryal, find it ſo much to *their* liking, that not *One* in *Twenty* but take to the *Sea* for good and all.

You

You ſay, "*Iriſh* Cattle were *Prohibited* "to keep up *Rents*, and making Fiſh cheap "in *England*, muſt *hinder* the *Sale* and "*Conſumption* of *Fleſh*, and *thereby* make "*Rents* fall.

In *England* many *Acres* are now *ſet* for *Five* or *Ten* Shillings an *Acre*, and the *Tenants* ſcarce *able* to pay *that* which under *Corn* might *yield* the *Farmer three* or *four* pounds, now abate in *grazing*, and *plough* up more *Paſture*, and *Fleſh* will *hold* its *price*.

If to *this* you *Anſwer*, "We *often* ſee "*Corn* ſo cheap, that the *Farmers* are "*broke* by it, and what would they do "with *greater* quantities?

I reply; The *Reaſon* why *Farmers* want ſometimes *Vent* for their *Grain*, is, becauſe we have *not* always *Store*, and therefore *Merchants* make no *Proviſion* for the *Trade*: But if we yearly *ſow* ſuch *quantities* of Corn, beyond the *Expence* of the *Nation*, as *Merchants* may be *no leſs* certain of a *conſtant* Supply *here* than *they* are in the SOUND, (*where the Country depends as much on their Harveſt, as* France *does on its Vintage*) *Plenty* will

ſoon

ſhall create a *Trade*; and the *Advantage* of ENGLANDS lying ſo *much* nearer than DANTZIG, to the *places* where *Foreign Corn* is expended, together with the *Allowance* granted by the 25 Car. II. upon the *Exporting* thereof, will *ſufficiently* encourage *Merchants* to *deal* therein.

Beſides, *moſt* of our *Ships* are ſent *light* to *Bilboa* and *Lisbon*, (*now what loads our Ships helps our Navigation*) and our *Exports* to *Lisbon* not *anſwering* our *Imports* from *thence*, the *more we* ſend *them* in Corn, the *leſs* their Wines will *coſt* the *Nation* in READY MONY, or BILLS of EXCHANGE, which is all one.

But if you alledge, "*Sowing* Quantities "will make *Corn* cheap, and *that* will alſo "make *Rents* fall.

I *Anſwer*; Are *Proviſions* cheaper? There needs *leſs* Taxes in *time* of *War*, a *leſs* Rate will *maintain* the *Poor*, *Houſekeeping* will be *leſs* chargeable, the *Labourer* will require *leſs* Hire, and the *Artiſan* afford his *Work* cheaper; which muſt *fall* the *Price* of all our *Products* and *Manufactures*, and conſequently *enlarge*

large their *Exports* and *Expence* at *home*. Now, if (according to the *Proverb*) a Penny ſav'd be a Penny got, where's the *Hurt* the Fiſhery will do the Landed-Man?

But ſuppoſing there were only *Five hundred* pounds *Sterling* in *England*, an Ox could *hardly* be worth a *Penny*, nor the *Mony*-Rent of all *England* be *Five hundred* pounds *per annum*. Now, Gold or Silver-Mines *England* hath *none*, and (*in time of Peace*) *we* have *no* way to get BULLION from *other* Countries, but by *foreign* Trade, to which *nothing* can more *conduce* than the *cheap* working our Copper, Lead, Iron, Tin, Allom, Copperice, Coals, Wool, and *other* Products; and the *cheap* making of our Manufactures; and that is *not* to be *effected*, except *Labour* be *cheap*, which it can *never* be where *Proviſions* are *dear*. But are our *Proviſions cheap*? All *Nations* will *flock* to us, and *Crowds* will not only *force* cheap Labour, but quickly *improve* and *encreaſe* our *Manufactories*, and enlarge our *Product* far beyond the *whole* Expence of our *Nation*, whereby *ſo* much will be *added* to its

Wealth

Wealth and *Treasure* for Merchants exporting the *Surplus*, will in *Returns* bring back Gold, Silver, and other Valuable Commodities, which, in *our Nation*, that hath *property*, By *Succession* of *Contracts*, will *diffuse* amongst *Industrious* People, whose *number*, will still *encrease* with our *foreign Trade*, and *still* as they *augment*, will improve and encrease our *Manufactory*, even in the *very* Expence of *them* that are *added*, one *man* that *works* having (*perhaps*) *five* or *six* that only *eat* and *wear*. And *thus*, as the *consumption* of the *Native Product*, and the *numbers* of *Wealthy Tenants* and *Chapmen* encrease, *Rents* and *Lands must* and *will advance* in proportion: Witness Holland, and such of our *Lands* in *England* as lye near *great* and *populous* Corporations.

You reckon "*Two thousand Five hundred* "Persons in a whole *Year* are *hardly* able to "make a *Fleet* of *Nets*, only for *Five hun*"*dred* Busses; and observe *England* hath "*many Wasts*, and *much* unimprov'd *Lands*, "and therefore conclude *we* shall want "Hands.

Now, *Sir*, be pleas'd to consider, That a *full* employment of the *Hands* we have is

the *beſt* way to *get* more: That in *England* the *Taxes* for the *Poor* amount to *more* than the *Revenue* of ſome of the *Neighbouring* Countries, whereby it is *evident*, what *vaſt numbers* of *Beggers* and *Idle Perſons* now *live* upon the *Publick*, without *return* of *labour* for their *Bread*. Conſider likewiſe of how *eaſie* a Nature the *happy* buſineſs of the *Fiſhery* is; little *Boys* and *Girls* may do the work of ſpinning *Twine*; even the *Lame*, the *Weak*, and the *Aged* of *both Sexes* may ſit and earn *their* Livelihoods in *Braiding* and *Beeting* Nets, and in picking *Oakum*, *&c.* nay, the very *Blind* may *get* their *Bread* by turning *Wheels*; and *you'll* find reaſon to *conclude*, that were our own *Poor* ſet to work, *we* ſhould not *longer* need to have our *Nets* made or mended at *Enchuyſen* in *Holland*. And, as a *conſtant* Employment of ſuch *Poor* will be a continual *eaſe* and *comfort* to them, by *amuſing* and *diverting* them from *thinking* of their *Poverty*, or other *Miſery*, ſo will it ſave the *Nation* ſeveral *Hundred thouſand* pounds *per ann.* in the *Tax* to the *Poor*. Employing *them* will, in *ſome* meaſure, be a *Repeopling* of *us* too, by *adding* ſo many *loſt Hands* to the *Service* of the *Publick*.

It

It is hoped, by *conquering*, or at leaſt *ſtreightning* our *Enemies*, we ſhall ſhortly *oblige* them to an *honourable Peace*, and the *War* ended; what an *Advantage* will it be for *Soldiers*, to *find* in the *Fiſhery* work ready to their *Hand*, the want whereof hath *formerly* occaſion'd many (*when diſbanded*) to *leave* the *Kingdom*, or *take* the *Road*.

Nor need *we* fear, but the many *Thouſands* of *Engliſh*, *Scotch*, and *Iriſh* Mariners that *ſerve* our *Neighbours*, will *return* home, when ſo *certain* and ſo *profitable* an *Employment* as the **Royal Fiſhery** is ſet on foot here, *who* certainly will be *able* to *Catch*, *Cut*, *Pack*, *Salt*, and *Cure* Fiſh for *us*, as well as *they* uſed to *do* for *them*, and conſequently to *teach* others.

Should *Hands* be yet wanting to manage the **Fiſhery**, the **Parliament** can *eaſily* make good that *Defect*, by enacting, That *all ſuch* ſingle Perſons as (*by the Statutes of* 43 El. 2. 1 Jac. 25. 21 Jac. 28. *and the* 3 Car. 4.) *the Churchwardens and* Overſeers *of the* Poor *are impowered to put out* Apprentices; *together with all ſuch other as ſhall be put out* Apprentices by any Corporations, or *other publick*

Charities, *upon due requeſt made on behalf of the ſaid* Company, *ſhould by ſuch* Churchwardens *and* Overſeers, *or by a* Juſtice *of the* Peace, *be bound* Apprentice *to the ſaid* Company *for* Seven *Years, to learn* One *of the* Two *and* thirty *Trades that relate to the* Fiſhery, *for whom the* Companys *Intereſt will oblige* them *to provide the* ſobereſt *and* beſt *Workmen* of *each Trade.* And how to prevent their deſerting the Companys Service, can be ſhown beyond *Objection.*

Now the foregoing *Method* being *altogether* impracticable in *Holland*, becauſe they have *no* ſuch *Numbers* of *poor Children* to put Prentice, whether it would not *infallibly* confirm to us the Fiſhery, together with *all* that *long* Chain of *Bleſſings inſeparably* link'd to it, *you* may *judge.*

For, *allowing* the *Charge* of Fiſhing with *each* Buſs to *conſiſt*, ⅓ in the *Buſs* and *Rigging*, ⅓ in *Victuals*, *Nets*, &c. and ⅓ in *Seamens Wages*, and the *whole* to be *Nine hundred* pound.

That our *Buſs* and *Rigging*, *Craft* and *Victualling* will not *coſt* us ſo much as the *Dutch* muſt *pay* for *theirs*, may from what is *already* ſaid, be *eaſily* inferr'd. But admit

mit they *did*, and *their* Charge ſhould *together* amount to *Six* of the ſaid *Nine hundred* Pound, then *Three hundred* remains for *Wages*.

Now if the **Company** the *firſt* Year have but ⅓ of a *Buſſes* Crew their *own* Servants, (*bateing what is paid more to Officers till their own Apprentices are fit to command*) it will *ſave* them *One* of the ſaid *Three hundred* Pound. And ſuppoſing that the *next* Year the **Company** ſhould have one *half* of a Buſſes *Crew* to be their *own* Servants, it would then ſave them *One hundred* and *Fifty* of the ſaid *Three hundred* Pounds. And *thus* their **Fiſh** would ſtand *them* the *firſt* Year in about *Ten*, and the *next* in near *Fifteen per Cent. leſs* than the *Dutch*; and ſo *propotionable* to the *number* of their *Servants*, their *Profits* will *encreaſe*, till at length *paying* little or no *Wages*, they may *afford* to *ſell* **Fiſh** to the *Hollanders* cheaper than *they* can *catch* them.

If to this you anſwer, *The Company's Servants will loyter, &c. and catch few Fiſh*: Such a *Method* for making *each* perform his *Duty* is *already* propos'd as is *Objection* Proof.

Now,

Now, ſuch *Apprentices*, in the *Fiſhing* **Seaſon**, being *employed* at *Sea*, and *working* at *other* times *aſhore*, at *that* of the ſaid *Two* and *thirty* Trades *relating* to the **Fiſhery**, to *which they* are *bound*; when their *Time* is out, will be *able* to *get* their Livelihoods at *Sea* or *Land*. And if to render them *more* capable of *Serving* their *Country*, the **Company** ſhall at **four** a Clock each *Saturday* in the *Afternoon*, cauſe them (*when aſhore*) to *Muſter* and *Exerciſe*, (altho' *only* with *Staves*) and to *play* at *Cudgels*, or *fence*, and *reward* the *Conquerors* with the *Liberty* of wearing a ſmall *Ribbon*, whoſe *different colour* of *Red*, *Blew*, &c. ſhould diſtinguiſh them to be *Captains*, *Lieutenants*, *&c.* and ſhould cauſe *them* to be *called* and *Reſpected* as *ſuch*, by *the reſt* of *their Fellow*-Servants, till the next *Tryal* of *Skill*; how *ſoon* would *Emulation* beget *Addreſs!* and what a *Treaſure* and *Strength* to our *Nation* would each Thouſand of ſuch *Sea-Militia* be, always *ready* for *Service*, both by *Sea* and *Land*, and yet *no Charge* till *actually* in it. Your *Laſt* Objection, *viz.* "*The greatneſs* "*of the Undertaking*, makes me ſmile. The *Flemings* were *long* ſettled in the *making*

of

of *Broad Cloath*, yet when *we* ſet about it, *we* effectually fix'd that *Rich Staple* in *England*. The *Dutch* likewiſe, for *many* Years after, had the *Dreſſing* and *Dying* of all our *Woollen Manufactures*; but when *we* undertook the Work, *they* were *ſoon* deprived of that *Advantage*. Which ſo *great Benefits* our *Country* would have yet *wanted*, had not *any* ſet about *them*, becauſe *all* had *thought* them *too* big to be *accompliſhed*.

To conclude, *we* may *eaſily* aſſert and maintain the juſt *Right* and *Title* Providence hath given *His Majeſty* to that *Richer Gold-Mine* that both *Indies* affords, The **Fiſhery** of the **Britiſh** and **Iriſh** *Seas*; And that *without* quarrelling with our Neighbours: for by *only* a frugal Management of *Affairs*, We may *quickly* become **Sole Maſters** of the **Fiſhing Trade**. After which, whoever *now* refuſeth to *ſtrike* to *our Flag*, none *then* will deny *Reſpect* to *our Fleece*.

And *we* have reaſon to believe our *Great KING*, who *Ventures* his **Royal Perſon** ſo *freely*, for the Preſervation of *theſe his Kingdoms*, will not *deny* the *Aſſiſtance* of his *Special* Grace and Favour, to a *Work* that

that in so *great* a *measure* will contribute to our growth in Trade and Treasure.

And what *just Encouragement* may *we* not *hope* for from the *Parliament*, seeing in the *Preamble* of an *Act* passed in 14 *Car.* II, *cap.* 28, it is declar'd, That **the Publick Honour, Wealth, and Safety of this Realm, as well in the maintenance of Trade and support of Navigation, as in many other respects, doth in an high degree depend upon the Improvement and Encouragement of the Fishery**, &c.

Thus, Sir, what has been *Collected* fully Answers *your* Letter; so shall not *now* longer trespass on your Patience, than to add, That if at *your* Coming to *Town* you shall think fit to *peruse* the *Books* of the said Company, *lying* at the *Office* of Mr. *Puckle* and Mr. *Jenkins*, Publick Notaries in *Popes-head-alley* over against the *Royal* Exchange, *London* (*wherein as well the said* Letters Patents, Constitution, *as all the* Terms of Subscription, *are fairly engross'd*) *notwithstanding the* many idle *Reports so* industriously *spread abroad to Obstruct this Undertaking*, (*by* such *as* envy *the* Strength *and* Happiness *that would* accrew *to* England *by a well-regulated* Fishery) doubt not but you'll receive *full Satisfaction.*

Yours,

James Puckle.

London, Aug 21. 1696.

BL